Ceiling on incentive for double machine stitching of gunny bags

835. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the ceiling on incentive rates for double line machine stitching of gunny bags for procurement of wheat in line with rice; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons for adopting separate standards for wheat and rice; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the ceiling for incentive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The rate of incentive payable to rice millers for delivery of levy rice to Food Corporation of India in double line machine stitched BT gunny bags has been increased from 60 paise to 95 paise per bag of 95 Kg. filling effective from 1991-92 kharif marketing season which commenced on 1st October, 1991 to enthuse the rice millers to adopt to the machine stitching of bags progressively so as to reduce storage and transit losses of rice. The present rate of incentive for double-line machine stitching of wheat bags is 70 paise per bag effective from 1st April, 1989 which operates as a ceiling. The question regarding revision or otherwise of the ceiling rate for double line machine stitching of BT gunny bags for procurement of wheat would be considered at appropriate time.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Procurement of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India

836. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets for procurement of foodgrains fixed the Food Corporation of India for the period 1990-91 and 1991-92 as compared to the previous three years and the extent to which the same were achieved up to the end of October, 1991, State-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of wastage of foodgrains were reported from the States due to inordinate delay in lifting, packing and inadequate storage facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Since the procurement of foodgrains (wheat, paddy and coarsegrains) under price support operations by Food Corporation of India (FCI) is totally voluntary, and collection of levy rice under statutory orders from millers/traders is based on percentage of the quantum of production to be made during a marketing season, it is not practicable to fix any targets for procurement of foodgrains by FCI. A statement showing the State-wise procurement of wheat; rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and coarsegrains is attached at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 15]

(b) No, Sir.

Consumption of sugar

837. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state what were the sale prices of sugar during the last three years; and the consumption of sugar during the same period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): The internal consumption of sugar during the last three sugar years is given below:

(*Lakh Tonnes*)

Sugar year (October-September)	Consumption
1988-89	99·19
1989-90	102·83
1990-91	105·89 (Prov.)